

Senate Joint Resolution No. 2

INTRODUCED BY D. RYAN

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA SUPPORTING A HEALTHY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT BY URGING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO OFFER NUTRITIOUS FOOD AND BEVERAGE CHOICES AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

WHEREAS, obesity in children is a national epidemic and can lead to chronic disease, such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the children's diets are not meeting national nutrition recommendations; and

WHEREAS, children make food and beverage choices in a variety of school settings, including school breakfast and lunch, the use of vending machines, the purchase of concessions, and after school programs; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid and health care costs are a growing issue of concern in Montana and are significantly impacted by obesity; and

WHEREAS, good nutrition and adequate physical activity help children grow, develop, and do well in school; and

WHEREAS, healthy bodies and minds are major contributors to readiness to learn, to improved school attendance, and to improved performance in sports and other extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, school-based nutrition education and physical activity support healthy eating habits and an active lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, wholesome foods produced in Montana should be available and actively promoted in a healthy school environment; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature needs to identify long-term strategies to reduce the need for public assistance programs, such as Medicaid, and to lower health care costs related to chronic diseases and poor dental health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

That the Montana Legislature support implementation of school policies that ensure a healthy environment in our schools and that encourage children to eat well and be physically active throughout the school day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Legislature urge local school districts to offer nutritious food and beverage choices and provide opportunities for physical activity whenever possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the State send a copy of this resolution to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for distribution to every school district in Montana.

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